(b) The Department of Tourism has identified four places namely Moscow, Johannesburg, Sooul and Buenos Aires for opening new Tourist Offices.

(c) The new tourism policy aims at achieving sustainable development of tourism through the co-ordinated efforts of Central Government, State Governments, and the Private Sector. It also aims at creating awareness about tourism and ensuring public participation in the development of tourism.

Formulation of New Tourism Policy

773. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new National Tourism Policy in consultation with State Tourism Ministers at the recently held conference in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and in what way it is likely to be beneficial to all concerned including private sector/Union Territories/State etc.; and

(c) what is the likely amount of Central/ private funding for development of Tourism Industry during 1997-98 and Ninth Plan period and whether the Union till date has given its approval to new National Tourism Policy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) The Draft National Tourism Policy prepared by the Department of Tourism has been generally endorsed by the State Governments. The Tourism Policy, 1997 aims at achieving sustained development of tourism through the co-ordinated efforts of Central Government, State Governments and the private sector. It also aims at creating awareness about tourism and ensuring public participation in the development of tourism.

(c) The draft National Tourism Policy does not include any quantification of Central/ Private funding for tourism development. However, the Plan Budget of the Central Department of Tourism for tourism development during 1997-98 is Rs. 110.35 crores. The Draft National Policy has not been submitted to the Union Cabinet for approval.

Circulation of Draft National Tourism Policy to State Governments

774. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have circulated a Draft National Tourism Policy to all the State Governments for their comments;

(b) if so, details of comments received by the Central Government thereon and how far the Central Government propose to include State Government's recommendations etc, in the new Tourism Policy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have in general, endorsed the National Tourism Policy.

Target for Growth of Tourism and Wildlife Reserves

775.DR. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target set up for the next three years for growth of tourism; and

(b) the measures taken to develop beaches and wildlife reserves to boost eco-tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The Working Group on Tourism for Ninth Five Year Plan has' projected a growth target of 8% in tourist arrivals during the Plan period.

(b) The Department of Tourism has formulated specific guidelines for the development of eco-tourism in the country. It includes policy and planning guidelines and specific steps to be taken by the Government, developers, visitors and the local community.